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(54) Handoff triggering between bordering cells of cellular wireless communication systems

Weiterreichungsauslösung zwischen benachbarten Zellen eines zellularen schnurlosen Kommunikationssystems

Déclenchement de transfert cellulaire entre cellules contigues de systèmes de communication cellulaires sans fil

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Description

Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to handdown and handoff procedures for mobile stations traveling between adjacent or overlapping cells of wireless communication systems. In particular, the invention provides handdown and handoff procedures which are triggered on the basis of propagation path loss between a mobile station and a base station currently serving the mobile station.

Background of The Invention

[0002] In addition to signals carrying voice traffic, a base station of a cellular wireless communication system transmits at least one control signal at a known power level over its geographic area of coverage or "cell". For example, a base station of a code-division multiple access (CDMA) system radiates a steady pilot signal having a repetitive pseudo random binary sequence code. The pilot signals of all base stations of a given CDMA system have the same binary sequence code, but have different time offsets relative to a zero time reference. When received by a mobile station, the pilot signals allow the mobile station to obtain initial system synchronization, and to link with a system base station whose received pilot signal is strongest among other received pilot signals. The pilot signal also provides a code that the mobile station uses to decode other signals from the system base stations, namely, synchronization (sync), paging, and traffic channels.

[0003] Base stations of a time-division multiple access (TDMA) system and of a frequency-division multiple access (FDMA or "analog") system, also transmit steady control signals at known power levels to mobile stations traveling in the base station cells over forward control frequency channels. In TDMA systems such as, e.g., American Digital Cellular (ADC), the global system for mobile communications (GSM), and Japanese digital cellular (JDC), such signals include synchronization (SYNC), slow associated control channel (SACCH) and digital verification color code (DVCCH) signals. In analog systems such as, e.g., the advanced mobile phone system (AMPS), each base station transmits a continuous supervisory audio tone (SAT) control signal for reception by mobile stations in the base station's cell. See generally, R.C.V. Macario, Cellular Radio Principles and Design (McGraw-Hill 1993); and R. Kuruppillai, et al., Wireless PCS (McGraw-Hill 1997).

[0004] In typical cellular wireless communication systems, a mobile station within a system cell is linked by a serving base station for two-way communication with a public switched telephone network (PSTN) or mobile switching center (MSC). The system base stations are themselves connected by wire to the mobile switching center. The MSC interfaces user traffic over wireless links between the base and the mobile stations, with the wired PSTN. An important function of the MSC is to ensure that a mobile station's link with the PSTN meets a minimum quality standard as the mobile station travels and signaling (i.e., propagation) conditions between the mobile station and the serving base station vary accordingly. The MSC will therefore operate to switch a mobile station to service by another base station, whenever a quality link with a currently serving base station becomes impossible to maintain.

[0005] If a mobile station is being served by a first base station affiliated with a first communication system (e.g., a CDMA system using a first set of frequency channels (F1)), and that base station's cell borders on a cell of a second base station affiliated with a second communication system (e.g., FDMA such as Advanced Mobile Phone System or AMPS, or CDMA using a different set of frequency channels (F2)), a "hard" handoff of the mobile station to service by the second base station must occur as the mobile station approaches the latter and moves out of range of the first base station. Otherwise, the mobile station will lose its link with the PSTN (a so-called "dropped" call). A hard handoff can be carried out directly, i.e., the mobile station is switched over directly for service by the second base station; or indirectly via an intermediate "handdown" procedure wherein the currently serving base station begins to serve the mobile station using the operating protocols of a second communication system (for example, the serving base station hands the mobile station down from CDMA to AMPS).

[0006] In CDMA systems, a known method of determining when a hard hand-off or handdown is necessary involves measuring received pilot signal strength in the form of a ratio Ec/Io at the mobile station, wherein Ec is received pilot signal power and Io is total received signal power at the mobile station, and initiating a hard handoff or handdown when the measured Ec/Io ratio falls below a set threshold. Currently, CDMA mobile stations measure Ec/Io and transmit a corresponding pilot strength measurement message (PSMM) based on the Ec/Io measurements to a serving base station, either in response to pilot strength measurement request orders (PMROs) from the base station, or if certain handoff trigger thresholds are met. US-A-5 640 414, WO-A-93/06683 and H. Stellakis, R. Ganesh, "CDMA to AMPS Handdown Strategies in a Dual-Mode Cellular Network" ICT '98 International Conference on Telecommunications. Bridging East and West through Telecommunications, Proceedings of ICT'98 - International Conference on Telecommunications, Chalkidiki, Greece, 21 June 1998 (1998-06-21), pages 96-100 vol.4, XP000889723 1998, Thessaloniki, Greece, Aristotle Univ. Thessaloniki, Greece describe cellular communications systems that perform handoffs and/or

handdowns based on Ec/Io measurements.

[0007] Although CDMA base stations periodically request PSMMs from mobile stations they currently serve, such requests and the responses usually do not result in handoffs of the mobile stations. These ongoing signal exchanges occur irrespective of whether or not the trigger threshold is met, and increase processor loading of the system infrastructure thus tending to degrade the voice quality of existing calls.

[0008] Using Ec/Io measurements to trigger a handdown and/or handoff incur the following problems, however.

1. The total receive power Io at the position of the mobile station is a function of cell loading, which condition typically varies over time. Using a trigger threshold based on the Ec/Io ratio at the mobile station thus makes the threshold sensitive to the current traffic load condition at the serving base station. Accordingly, a handoff trigger based on received Ec/Io does not accurately reflect the ability of the serving base station to sustain a quality voice link with a given mobile station.
2. Using set handoff or handdown trigger thresholds based on Ec/Io can cause a handoff either too soon or too late, because the Ec/Io measurements with which the thresholds are compared vary depending on traffic loading of the system. Setting the thresholds too high will cause a handoff to be initiated too soon when the mobile station travels inward (i.e., toward) the serving base station, while setting these thresholds lower can seriously delay a handoff or handdown as the mobile station moves farther into the bordering cell of the second communication system. Also, triggering a handoff or handdown too early causes the base station cell to reduce its traffic capacity unnecessarily. On the other hand, a late handoff or handdown impairs the quality of an existing voice link.
3. In an analog system such as AMPS, a typical base station covers less area than a typical CDMA base station. In the region of a strong CDMA pilot signal due to light traffic load, the pilot coverage for a CDMA base station is expanded because the received Ec/Io ratio at the mobile station increases. Thus, if the base station attempts to handdown the mobile station for AMPS service by the same base station in such a region, then the call may be dropped because the station's AMPS coverage is too small when compared to its CDMA pilot coverage.

Summary of the Invention

[0009] Methods according to the invention are as set out in the independent claims. Preferred forms are set out in the dependent claims.

[0010] A scheme is provided for triggering a handoff or a handdown of a mobile station served by a base station in a cellular wireless communication system. Propagation path loss for signal links between the base station and the mobile station is used to trigger a handoff or a handdown. For example, the scheme can include determining a tolerable path loss for signal links between the mobile and the base stations, and radiating a control signal at a known transmit power level from the base station over its associated cell. A receive power level threshold for the control signal is determined for the mobile station, according to the known transmit power level of the control signal and the tolerable path loss. A handdown or a handoff of the mobile station is triggered after deriving the received power level of the control signal at the mobile station, and determining that the received power level is less than the receive power level threshold.

[0011] According to another aspect of the invention, a method of triggering a handdown or a handoff of a mobile station served by a base station of a cellular wireless communication system, includes receiving, at the mobile station, a control signal transmitted at a known power level from the base station, and a receive power level threshold for the control signal which threshold corresponds to the known transmit power level of the control signal and a tolerable path loss for signal links between the mobile and the base stations. A handdown or a handoff of the mobile station is triggered after the mobile station derives the received power level of the control signal, and determines that the received power level is less than the receive power level threshold.

[0012] For a better understanding of the invention, reference is made to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing and the appended claims.

Brief Description Of The Drawing

[0013] In the drawing:

FIG. 1 shows a CDMA system base station having a cell that borders a cell of a different system base station, and a mobile station served by the CDMA base station;

FIG. 2 shows two base stations with bordering cells as in FIG. 1, with the mobile station crossing a defined handdown trigger boundary;

FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram of a receiver section of the mobile station;

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating a hand down procedure according to the invention; and

Fig. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating a handoff procedure according to the invention.

Detailed Description Of The Invention

[0014] As used herein, the term "handdown" is defined to include a procedure wherein a mobile station being served by a first base station using a first multiple access system, such as CDMA (F1), of a first wireless communication system, is handed down for service by the first base station but using frequency channels and/or signaling protocols of a second multiple access system. Additionally, in certain embodiments, the second multiple access system corresponds to a second base station of a second wireless communication system whose cell borders or overlaps the cell of the first base station. Moreover, the second base station of the bordering cell can belong to a service provider different from the provider of the first base station.

[0015] The term "handoff" is defined herein to include a procedure wherein a mobile station being served by a first base station is handed over for service by a second base station whose cell borders or overlaps the cell of the first base station.

[0016] The following considerations are made in defining a trigger for initiating a handdown or a handoff of a mobile station:

I. The trigger is defined on the basis of propagation path loss between the mobile station and a current serving base station. Propagation path loss is independent of the traffic load condition at the serving base station at any given time.

II. Signaling between the mobile and the serving base station concerning the trigger should be reduced. This avoids placing ongoing signal processing demands on either station and their system infrastructure.

[0017] The illustrated embodiment concerns a CDMA system operating with a first allocation of frequency channels (F1) and having base stations whose cells border on cells of neighboring AMPS base stations, or on cells of neighboring CDMA base stations operating with a second frequency channel allocation (F2). Those skilled in the art will understand that the disclosed invention may be adapted to initiate handoffs of mobile stations traveling between any two base station cells, or sectors of a given base station cell, whether the base stations operate with the same or different frequency channels and/or system protocols.

[0018] FIG. 1 shows a base station 10 that is constructed and arranged to serve mobile stations within a geographic area cell A of a first cellular wireless communication system 12. In this embodiment, the base station 10 operates as part of a CDMA system with a first allocation of frequency channels (F1). Depending on the embodiment, the base station 10 can handdown from a CDMA system (F1) to an AMPS system, or to a different CDMA system (F2). In this embodiment, the base station 10 is arranged to handdown a CDMA mobile station 16 currently served by the base station 10, for continued service by the base station 10 but using signaling and/or frequency protocols of a second wireless communication system 22. For example, the system 22 may be an analog (AMPS) system having a base station 24 whose cell B borders on and partly overlaps cell A. Alternatively, base station 10 may be arranged to handdown the mobile station 16 for a different CDMA service by the base station 10, using frequency channels F2 corresponding to the second CDMA wireless communication system 22.

[0019] In the disclosed embodiment, the base station 10 is equipped to transmit a primary pilot signal corresponding to the CDMA-F1 system 12 at a set power level, so that the primary pilot signal radiates effectively to a primary pilot signal boundary 14. For example, and without limitation, a typical pilot signal may be radiated by setting a base station transmitter output power at around eight watts, and feeding the output signal to a base station antenna having a typical gain of around eight dB. The boundary 14 thus defines an outer limit for CDMA service coverage by the base station 10 using the protocols of the first communication system 12. It will be understood that the boundary 14 is not always circular since it depends on signal path loss which typically varies for different headings from the base station, due to intervening structures and terrain.

[0020] Base station 24 in cell B is equipped to establish two-way wireless links with mobile stations inside cell B, according to the protocols of the second communication system 22. As mentioned, the second system 22 may be an "analog" one operating, for example, according to AMPS protocols, or it may be a second CDMA system using frequency channel allocations (F2) different from the first allocation (F1) of CDMA frequency channels. A boundary 26 defines a maximum limit of service area coverage by the base station 24.

[0021] Because of its proximity to cell B, base station 10 of the first system 12 is equipped to handdown service of the mobile station 16 such that the latter continues to be served by the base station 10, but according to the protocols of the second communication system 22. Alternatively, a handoff triggering procedure can also result in a hard handoff of the mobile station 16 directly to the base station 24. As explained below, the decision whether to handdown or to

handoff can depend on the amount of signal path loss being experienced between the base station 10 and the mobile station 16. In this embodiment, after the handdown is performed, base station 10 serves the mobile station 16 using the same frequency channels and signaling protocols (e.g., AMPS or CDMA-F2) used by base station 24 of cell B, as far as a defined outer boundary 18 about the base station 10. Thus, boundary 18 corresponds to a handdown service area coverage for base station 10 within which it can also provide one of, e.g., AMPS service, or CDMA service using the second allocation of frequency channels (F2), depending on the nature of the bordering second wireless communication system 22.

[0022] In the disclosed embodiment, a handdown trigger (T_Handdown) is defined according to a known transmit power level of the primary pilot signal from the base station 10, and a tolerable signal propagation path loss between the base station 10 and the mobile station 16 for a desired quality of service under protocols of the first (CDMA-F1) communication system 12. For presently known CDMA systems, a tolerable path loss is typically between about 142 to 148 dB. Generally, the allowable path loss is a function of the maximum uplink signal power available from a given mobile station, as is known in the art.

[0023] In the present embodiment, the handdown trigger is initially transmitted to the mobile station using, for example, a forward traffic channel from the base station 10. The trigger is then stored by the mobile station 16. The mobile station then periodically derives a received power level of the primary (F1) pilot signal radiated from base station 10, and determines if the handdown trigger has been reached.

[0024] In FIG. 1, the tolerable path loss corresponds to a fixed distance from base station 10 thus defining a circular handdown trigger boundary 20. As explained above with respect to the pilot signal boundary 14, the trigger boundary 20 need not necessarily be circular. The trigger boundary 20 is defined on the basis of the tolerable signal propagation path loss. Forward traffic (voice) signals from the base station 10 thus may sustain the same path loss at different distances from the base station 10, depending on the heading of the mobile station relative to the base station.

[0025] As mentioned, after the mobile station 16 receives the trigger T_Handdown from the base station 10, it periodically derives the received power of the primary pilot signal radiated from base station 10. The computation may be performed, for example, by performing a conventional pilot signal strength measurement Ec/Io, and then multiplying the measured Ec/Io ratio by Io. With respect to the value of Io alone, the mobile station can, for example, periodically measure total power of signals received over the operating frequency channels of the first communication system 12, and compute an average total received signal power which average is taken as Io. If the Ec/Io and the Io measurements are each computed in terms of decibels, the results can then be added to obtain a relative received pilot signal power Ec in decibels. Alternative ways to determine these measurements are possible.

[0026] FIG. 3 shows a receiver section 40 of the mobile station 16. An Ec/Io ratio measurement is typically performed by circuitry 42 coupled to an output of a long code descrambling stage 44, as is known in the art. The value of Io can be measured, for example, by a power measurement circuit 46 coupled to an output of an existing receiver band pass filter 48, wherein an antenna 50 of the receiver section 40 is coupled to an input of the filter 48.

[0027] Next, mobile station 16 compares the obtained pilot signal power level Ec with T_Handdown. As long as Ec is greater then T_Handdown, no handoff related signals need be transmitted from the mobile station 16 to the base station 10. Control signaling between the two stations concerning the threshold is therefore reduced, and ongoing traffic between the stations may continue with the desired quality of service.

[0028] In FIG. 2, the mobile station 16 is moving over the handdown trigger boundary 20 of cell A as it moves farther into cell B. When the mobile station compares Ec with T_Handdown beyond the boundary 20, Ec becomes less than T_Handdown. In this embodiment, the mobile station 16 then transmits its Ec/Io and Io measurements to the serving base station 10. The base station 10 will then typically report the measurements to the MSC with which the base station is wired. Alternative embodiments may have the mobile station transmit a derived Ec value alone to the serving base station.

[0029] At least two scenarios may occur. See FIGS. 4 and 5. For example, in FIG. 4, the signal path loss reflected by the reported measurements is such that the mobile station 16 can be served by the base station 10 under the protocols of the second system 22, i.e., mobile station 16 is within the secondary service boundary 18 of base station 10. Thus, the mobile station is handed down for such service by the base station 10. As the mobile station continues to travel into cell B, known "soft" handoff procedures can be initiated wherein the mobile station 16 simultaneously communicates with base station 10 and base station 24 if, for example, the mobile station 16 has been handed down to a CDMA (F2) system corresponding to the second base station 24.

[0030] Assuming, for example, an allowable path loss of 145 dB, a handdown trigger is typically set to five dB less than the allowable path loss, i.e., a tolerable path loss of 140 dB. If the path loss indicated by the measurements at the mobile station is, e.g., up to three dB more than the handdown trigger (between 140 to 143 dB), a handdown of mobile station 16 to base station 10 may be appropriate.

[0031] A direct or "hard" handoff to the base station 24 is represented in FIG. 5. There, the measured received Ec/Io and Io may indicate that the signal path loss is three dB or more above the handdown trigger. For example, the mobile station 16 may have traveled beyond the secondary service coverage boundary 18 of base station 10 into cell B. The

mobile station is then handed off directly to the base station 24 of cell B.

[0032] As mentioned, according to one embodiment of the invention, signals representing a handdown or handoff request from a mobile station are transmitted from the mobile station only when the propagation path loss between the mobile station and its serving base station exceeds a certain level. A CDMA base station typically always monitors its transmit pilot signal power (P_pilot). The handdown trigger value T_Handdown may therefore be defined to be a threshold received pilot signal power level, such that;

$$T\_Handdown = P\_pilot - T\_pathloss \text{ (all in dB)};$$

wherein:

P_pilot = transmit pilot signal power at base station

T_pathloss = tolerable link path loss for a desired quality of service

[0033] In a CDMA system, the disclosed procedure can be implemented, for example and without limitation, by the following steps:

1. After acquiring a mobile station on a traffic channel, a serving base station sends a received pilot power threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES) value to the mobile station.

2. The base station sends a request for periodic pilot strength measurements (Ec/Io) from the mobile station, with corresponding total received signal power measurements (Io). The mobile station is instructed to report when a strongest received pilot power computed by the mobile station as (Ec/Io) + Io, is less than PILOT_PWR_THRES.

3. After receiving one or more reports from the mobile station indicating that the received pilot signal power is less than PILOT_PWR_THRES, the base station and its associated MSC decide whether to handdown the mobile station (FIG. 4), or to handoff the mobile station directly for service by a different base station of a bordering cell (FIG. 5).

[0034] An example of how current systems can be adapted to use path loss to trigger a handdown or handoff is as follows:

1. Define a new periodic Pilot Strength Measurement Request Order with ORDER code = '010001', ORDQ = nnnnnnnn (where nnnnnnnn specifies the report period), and one Order Specific field to specify the pilot signal power threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).
2. After acquiring a mobile station on a traffic channel, a serving base station sends the new Order to request periodic pilot strength measurements from the mobile station, specifying the report interval and the condition under which the mobile station is to report the measurements.
3. The mobile station periodically transmits a pilot Strength Measurement Message (PSMM) and, in addition, a total serving frequency signal power value (SF_RX_PWR) to the base station when a strongest received pilot power derived as (Ec/Io) (dB) + Io(dBm) is less than PILOT_PWR_THRES. Thus, the newly defined PSMM may be considered as an extension of the PSMM used in a current IS-95 standard.

[0035] While the foregoing description represents a preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made. For example, the mobile station may transmit periodic pilot strength measurements (Ec/Io) with corresponding total received signal power measurements (Io) to the base station, autonomously. The base station can then calculate the power level of the control signal received at the mobile station, and determine when the received signal power level is less than the threshold power level.

Claims

1. A method of receiving measurements from a mobile station (16) to a base station (10) of a cellular wireless communication system (12) which radiates a control signal from the base station and receives a control signal strength measurement Ec/Io of said control signal made at said mobile station (16), said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io is a ratio of control signal power divided by total received signal power, said method **CHARACTERIZED BY**:

receiving from said mobile station (16) a separate total received signal power measurement which is made at said mobile station (16) and separate from said control signal strength measurement.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 including:

transmitting to said mobile station (16) a control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES); and wherein said receiving occurring after said mobile station derives a control signal power level as a function of said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io and said separate total received signal power measurement which can be taken as Io and determines that said control signal power level is less than said control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said mobile station (16) derives said control signal power level by multiplying said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io by said separate total received signal power measurement.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 including:

triggering a handdown or a handoff of the mobile station (16) after determining that the control signal power level is less than the control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said control signal transmitted from said base station is a pilot signal transmitted at a known transmit power level and operating as part of a code division multiple access (CDMA) system.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the triggering step includes receiving, at the base station (10), signals from the mobile station (16) indicating that the control signal power level is less than the control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

7. A method as claimed in claim 4, including handing down the mobile station (16) for service by the base station (10) using system protocols of a wireless communication system (22) having a cell that borders on the cell of the base station (10).

8. A method as claimed in claim 4, including handing off the mobile station (16) for service by a different base station (24) having an associated cell that borders on the cell of the base station (10).

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, including handing down the mobile station for service by the base station (10) using system protocols of a wireless communication system (22) having a cell that borders on the cell of the base station (10), before handing off the mobile station (16) for service by said different base station (24).

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, including:

deriving a control signal power level by multiplying said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io by said separate total received signal power measurement.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, including:

triggering a handdown or a handoff of the mobile station (16) after determining that said control signal power level is less than a control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

12. A method as claimed in claim 1, including maintaining the transmit power level of the control signal substantially independent of traffic loading at the base station.

13. A method of providing measurements from a mobile station (16) to a base station (10) of a cellular wireless communication system (12), which radiates a control signal from the base station and receives a control signal strength measurement Ec/Io of said control signal made at said mobile station (16), said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io is a ratio of control signal power divided by total received signal power, said method **CHARACTERIZED BY**:

making a separate total received signal power measurement which is made at said mobile station (16) and separate from said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 including:

transmitting said separate total received signal power measurement to said base station (10).

15. A method as claimed in claim 13 including:

receiving a control signal power level threshold (PILOT_POWER_THRES) from said base station (10);
deriving a control signal power level as a function of said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io and said separate total received signal power measurement which can be taken as Io; and
determining that the control signal power level is less than the receive power level threshold (PILOT_POWER_THRES).

16. A method as claimed in claim 13, including:

deriving said control signal power level by multiplying said control signal strength measurement Ec/Io by said separate total received signal power measurement.

17. A method as claimed in claim 15 including:

triggering a handoff of the mobile station (16) after deriving said control signal power level, and determining that the control signal power level is less than the control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the triggering step includes transmitting, from the mobile station (16), at least one signal indicating that the control signal power level at the mobile station is less than the control signal power level threshold (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zum Empfangen von Messwerten von einem mobilen Endgerät (16) zu einer Basisstation (10) eines zellularen drahtlosen Kommunikationssystems (12), das ein Steuersignal von der Basisstation ausstrahlt und einen Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke des Steuersignals, der an dem mobilen Endgerät (16) bestimmt wird, empfängt, wobei der Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke ein Verhältnis der Steuersignalstärke geteilt durch die insgesamt empfangene Signalstärke ist, wobei das Verfahren **GEKENNZEICHNET IST DURCH**:

das Empfangen eines separaten Messwerts der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke von dem mobilen Endgerät (16), der an dem mobilen Endgerät (16) bestimmt wird und separat von dem Messwert der Steuersignalstärke ist.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, umfassend:

das Senden eines Pegelschwellenwerts der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES) an das mobile Endgerät (16) und
wobei das Empfangen auftritt, nachdem das mobile Endgerät einen Steuersignalstärkepegel in Abhängigkeit von dem Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke und dem separaten Messwert der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke ableitet, der als Io genommen werden kann und feststellt, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel geringer ist als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, wobei das mobile Endgerät (16) den Steuersignalstärkepegel herleitet, indem es den Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke mit dem separaten Messwert der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke multipliziert.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, umfassend:

das Auslösen einer Durchreichung oder Weiterreichung des mobilen Endgeräts (16), nachdem festgestellt wurde, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel geringer als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES) ist.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, wobei das Steuersignal, das von der Basisstation gesendet wird, ein Pilotsignal ist, das mit einem bekannten Stärkepegel gesendet wird und als Teil eines Codemultiplex-Systems (CDMA, Code Division Multiple Access) arbeitet.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, wobei der Auslöseschritt das Empfangen von Signalen von dem mobilen Endgerät (16) an der Basisstation (10) umfasst, die anzeigen, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel geringer ist als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, umfassend das Weiterreichen des mobilen Endgeräts (16) zur Bedienung durch die Basisstation (10) mit Hilfe von Systemprotokollen eines drahtlosen Kommunikationssystems (22), das eine Zelle aufweist, die an die Zelle der Basisstation (10) grenzt.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, umfassend das Weiterreichen des mobilen Endgeräts (16) zur Bedienung durch eine andere Basisstation (24), die eine dazugehörige Zelle aufweist, die an die Zelle der Basisstation (10) grenzt.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, umfassend das Weiterreichen des mobilen Endgeräts zur Bedienung durch die Basisstation (10) mit Hilfe von Systemprotokollen eines drahtlosen Kommunikationssystems (22), das eine Zelle aufweist, die an die Zelle der Basisstation (10) grenzt, bevor das mobile Endgerät (16) zur Bedienung durch die andere Basisstation (24) weitergereicht wird.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, umfassend:

das Ableiten eines Steuersignalstärkepegels durch Multiplizieren des Messwerts Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke mit dem separaten Messwert der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke.

11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, umfassend:

das Auslösen einer Durchreichung oder Weiterreichung des mobilen Endgeräts (16), nachdem festgestellt wurde, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel geringer als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES) ist.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, umfassend das Beibehalten des Sendestärkepegels des Steuersignals im Wesentlichen unabhängig von der Datenverkehrsbelastung an der Basisstation.

13. Verfahren zum Liefern von Messwerten von einem mobilen Endgerät (16) zu einer Basisstation (10) eines zellularen drahtlosen Kommunikationssystems (12), das ein Steuersignal von der Basisstation ausstrahlt und einen Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke des Steuersignals, der an dem mobilen Endgerät (16) bestimmt wird, empfängt, wobei der Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke ein Verhältnis der Steuersignalstärke geteilt durch die insgesamt empfangene Signalstärke ist, wobei das Verfahren **GEKENNZEICHNET IST DURCH**:

das Bestimmen eines separaten Messwerts der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke, der an dem mobilen Endgerät (16) bestimmt wird und separat von dem Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke ist.

14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, umfassend:

das Senden des separaten Messwerts der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke an die Basisstation (10).

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, umfassend:

das Empfangen eines Pegelschwellenwerts der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES) von der Basisstation (10),
das Ableiten eines Steuersignalstärkepegels in Abhängigkeit von dem Messwert Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke und dem separaten Messwert der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke, der als Io genommen werden kann, und
das Feststellen, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel geringer ist als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR THRES).

16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 13, umfassend:

das Ableiten des Steuersignalstärkepegels durch Multiplizieren des Messwerts Ec/Io der Steuersignalstärke mit dem separaten Messwert der insgesamt empfangenen Signalstärke.

17. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, umfassend:

das Auslösen einer Weiterreichung des mobilen Endgeräts (16) nach dem Ableiten des Steuersignalstärkepegels und nachdem festgestellt wurde, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel geringer als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES) ist.

18. Verfahren nach Anspruch 17, wobei der Auslöseschritt das Senden mindestens eines Signals von dem mobilen Endgerät (16) ümfasst, das anzeigt, dass der Steuersignalstärkepegel am Endgerät geringer ist als der Pegelschwellenwert der Steuersignalstärke (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

Revendications

1. Procédé de réception de mesures d'une station mobile (16) à une station de base (10) d'un système de communication cellulaire sans fil (12) qui rayonne un signal de commande depuis la station de base et reçoit une mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io dudit signal de commande faite au niveau de ladite station mobile (16), ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io est un rapport de la puissance de signal de commande divisée par la puissance de signal reçue totale, ledit procédé étant **CARACTERISE PAR** :

la réception de ladite station mobile (16) d'une mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée qui est faite au niveau de ladite station mobile (16) et séparée de ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1 comprenant :

la transmission à ladite station mobile (16) d'un seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES) ;
dans lequel ladite réception se produit après que ladite station mobile déduit un niveau de puissance de signal de commande en fonction de ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io et de ladite mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée qui peut prise comme Io et détermine que ledit niveau de puissance de signal de commande est inférieur audit seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

3. Procédé selon la revendication 2 dans lequel ladite station mobile (16) déduit ledit niveau de puissance de signal de commande en multipliant ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io par ladite mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 2 comprenant :

le déclenchement d'un transfert intercellulaire avec coupure ou d'un transfert intercellulaire de la station mobile (16) après la détermination que le niveau de puissance de signal de commande est inférieur au seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel ledit signal de commande transmis depuis ladite station de base est un signal pilote transmis à un niveau de puissance de transmission connu et fonctionnant dans le cadre d'un système d'accès multiple par répartition en code (CDMA).

6. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel l'étape de déclenchement comprend la réception, au niveau de la station de base (10), de signaux de la station mobile (16) indiquant que le niveau de puissance de signal de commande est inférieur au seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

7. Procédé selon la revendication 4, comprenant un transfert intercellulaire avec coupure de la station mobile (16) pour desserte par la station de base (10) à l'aide de protocoles de système d'un système de communication sans fil (22) ayant une cellule qui borde la cellule de la station de base (10) .

8. Procédé selon la revendication 4, comprenant un transfert intercellulaire de la station mobile (16) pour desserte par

une station de base différente (24) ayant une cellule associée qui borde la cellule de la station de base (10).

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, comprenant un transfert intercellulaire avec coupure de la station mobile pour desserte par la station de base (10) à l'aide de protocoles de système d'un système de communication sans fil (22) ayant une cellule qui borde la cellule de la station de base (10), avant un transfert cellulaire de la station mobile (16) pour desserte par ladite station de base différente (24).

10. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant :

la déduction d'un niveau de puissance de signal de commande en multipliant ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io par ladite mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée.

11. Procédé selon la revendication 10, comprenant :

le déclenchement d'un transfert intercellulaire avec coupure ou d'un transfert intercellulaire de la station mobile (16) après la détermination que ledit niveau de puissance de signal de commande est inférieur à un seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

12. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant le maintien du niveau de puissance de transmission du signal de commande pratiquement indépendant du chargement de trafic au niveau de la station de base.

13. Procédé de fourniture de mesures d'une station mobile (16) à une station dé base (10) d'un système de communication cellulaire sans fil (12), qui rayonne un signal de commande depuis la station de base et reçoit une mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io dudit signal de commande faite au niveau de ladite station mobile (16), ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io est un rapport de la puissance de signal de commande divisée par la puissance de signal de réception totale, ledit procédé étant **CARACTERISE PAR** :

la réalisation d'une mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée qui est faite au niveau de ladite station mobile (16) et séparée de ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io.

14. Procédé selon la revendication 13 comprenant :

la transmission de ladite mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée à ladite station de base (10).

15. Procédé selon la revendication 13 comprenant :

la réception d'un seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_POWER_THRES) depuis ladite station de base (10) ;
la déduction d'un niveau de puissance de signal de commande en fonction de ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io et de ladite mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée qui peut prise comme Io ; et
la détermination que le niveau de puissance de signal de commande est inférieur au seuil de niveau de puissance de réception (PILOT_POWER_THRES).

16. Procédé selon la revendication 13, comprenant :

la déduction dudit niveau de puissance de signal de commande en multipliant ladite mesure d'intensité de signal de commande Ec/Io par ladite mesure de puissance de signal reçue totale séparée.

17. Procédé selon la revendication 15 comprenant :

le déclenchement d'un transfert intercellulaire de la station mobile (16) après la déduction dudit niveau de puissance de signal de commande, et la détermination que le niveau de puissance de signal de commande est inférieur au seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

18. Procédé selon la revendication 17, dans lequel l'étape de déclenchement comprend la transmission, depuis la station mobile (16), d'au moins un signal indiquant que le niveau de puissance de signal de commande au niveau de la station mobile est inférieur au seuil de niveau de puissance de signal de commande (PILOT_PWR_THRES).

FIG. 1

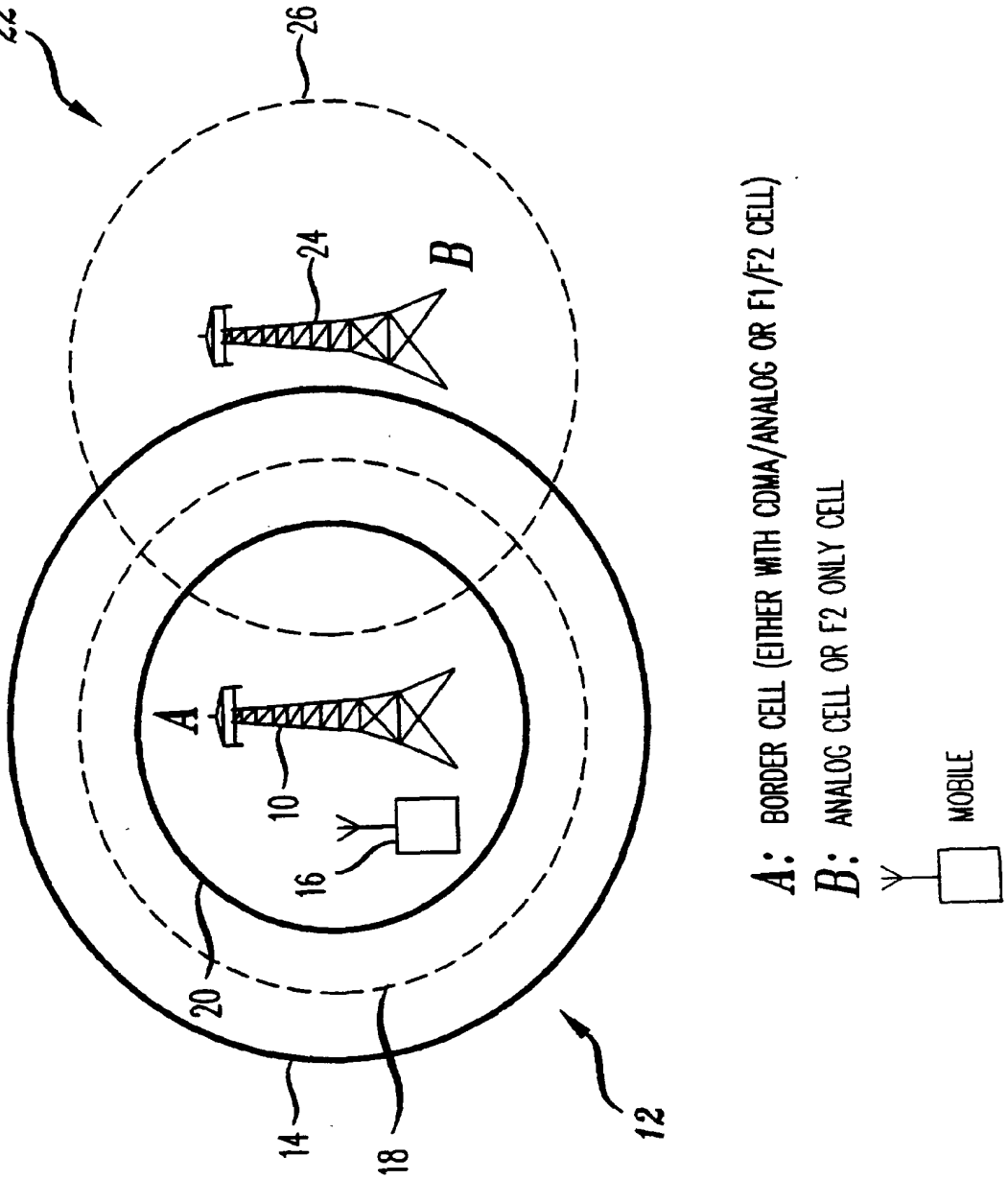

22
26
24
B
A
10
16
20
14
18
12
A: BORDER CELL (EITHER WITH CDMA/ANALOG OR F1/F2 CELL)
B: ANALOG CELL OR F2 ONLY CELL
MOBILE

FIG. 2

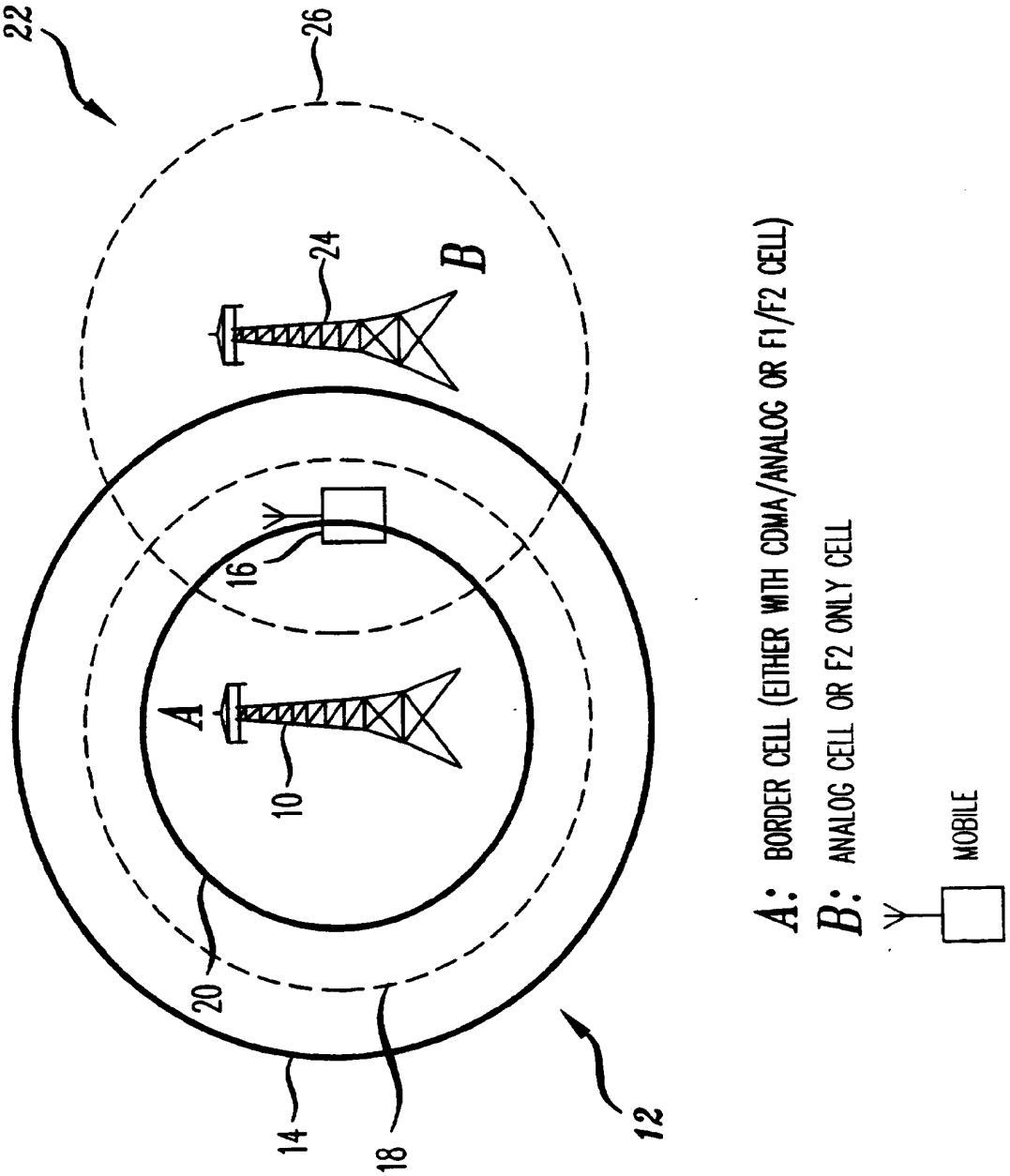

22
26
24
B
16
A
10
20
14
18
12
A: BORDER CELL (EITHER WITH CDMA/ANALOG OR F1/F2 CELL)
B: ANALOG CELL OR F2 ONLY CELL
MOBILE

FIG. 3

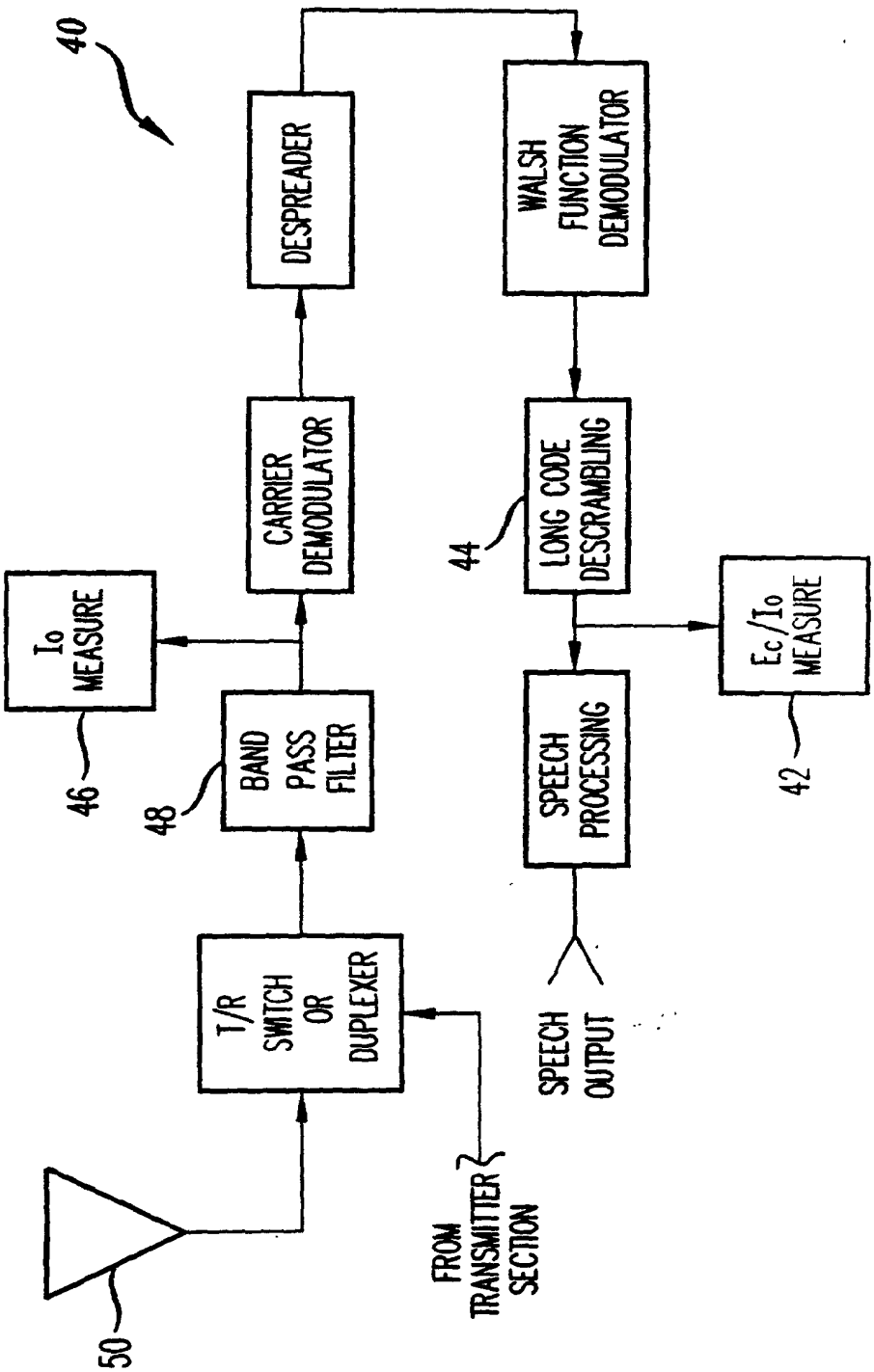

40
DESPREADER
WALSH FUNCTION DEMODULATOR
CARRIER DEMODULATOR
LONG CODE DESCRAMBLING
44
Io MEASURE
Ec/Io MEASURE
46
BAND PASS FILTER
48
SPEECH PROCESSING
42
T/R SWITCH OR DUPLEXER
SPEECH OUTPUT
FROM TRANSMITTER SECTION
50

FIG. 4

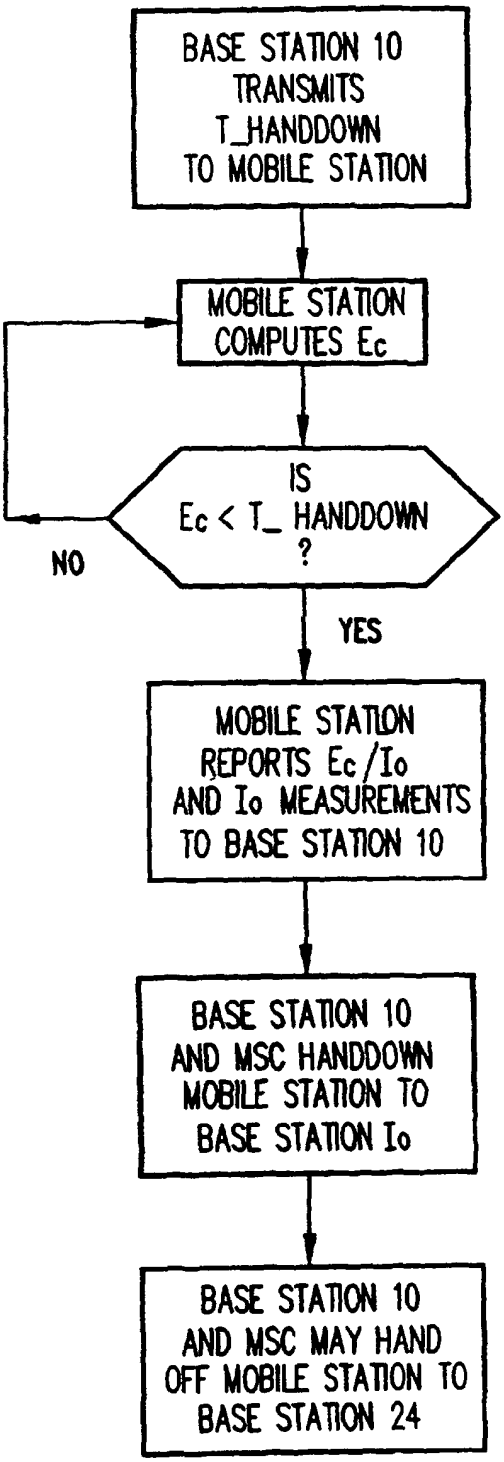
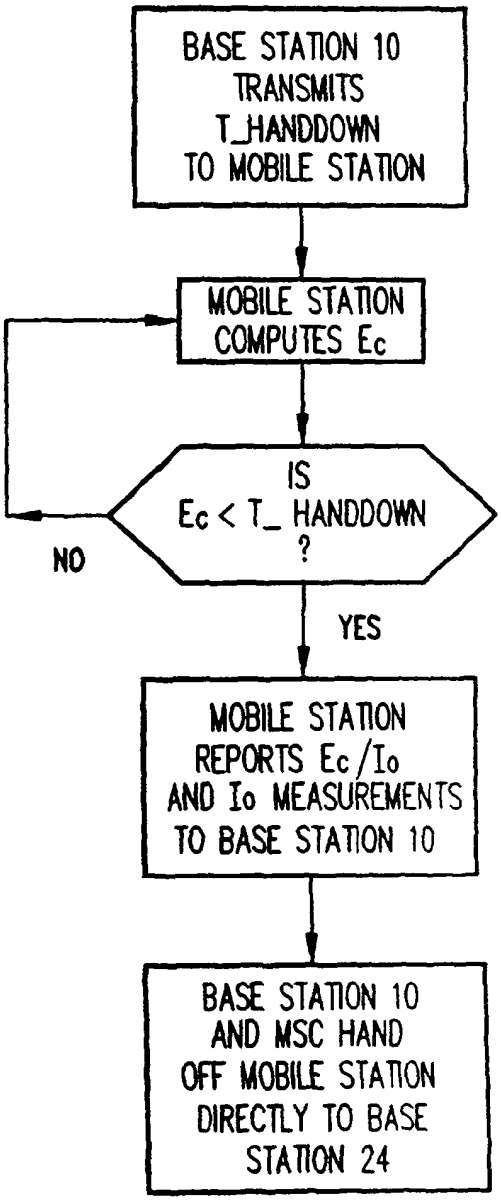

BASE STATION 10 TRANSMITS T_HANDDOWN TO MOBILE STATION
MOBILE STATION COMPUTES Ec
IS Ec < T_ HANDDOWN ?
NO
YES
MOBILE STATION REPORTS Ec/Io AND Io MEASUREMENTS TO BASE STATION 10
BASE STATION 10 AND MSC HANDDOWN MOBILE STATION TO BASE STATION Io
BASE STATION 10 AND MSC MAY HAND OFF MOBILE STATION TO BASE STATION 24

FIG. 5


BASE STATION 10 TRANSMITS T_HANDDOWN TO MOBILE STATION
MOBILE STATION COMPUTES Ec
IS Ec < T_ HANDDOWN ?
NO
YES
MOBILE STATION REPORTS Ec/Io AND Io MEASUREMENTS TO BASE STATION 10
BASE STATION 10 AND MSC HAND OFF MOBILE STATION DIRECTLY TO BASE STATION 24